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Title: Centralizing the control of postal service conveyor systems

Author(s): McPartland, B.J.

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Treatment: Practical (P)

Abstract: Processing tons of bulk mail that daily flow through the Jersey City, NJ, facility-the largest in the US-requires extensive mechanization. The handling system is made up of conveyors, bins, chutes, guided vehicles, sorting control stations, carousels, and other equipment for directing the mail to its proper destination. A decision was made by the postal service to upgraded control of the routing conveyors. A centralized control scheme was decided upon based on the use of high-capacity programmable logic controllers (PLCs), remote input/output (I/O) racks, colour monitors, and a 'touch-graphics' man/machine interface. Because the PLCs also have data-processing capabilities, a decision was made to include a data management information system (DMIS) to provide information about the actual status and operation of the system for use by management and engineering personnel. An electrical contractor who specializes in control systems was selected to carry out the project. (0 Refs)

Subfile: C

Descriptors: centralised control; computerised control; control systems; conveyors; postal services; programmable controllers; user interfaces

Identifiers: USA; PLC; remote rocks; user interfaces; postal service; routing conveyors; centralized control scheme; programmable logic controllers; colour monitors; man/machine interface; data management information system; personnel; control systems

Class Codes: C3210P (Control systems); C3220B (Programmable controllers); C3320B (Postal services); C5540B (Interactive-input devices); C7420 (Control engineering)

00032989 INSPEC Abstract Number: C69004913

Title: Automatic indexing machine for mail-handling systems

Author(s): van Mechelen, G.

Author Affiliation: Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company, Antwerp, Belgium

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Abstract: To make letter sorting economical, mail has to bear machine-readable information for a machine automatically to direct the letters into the right destination bin. Techniques tried out or presently applied use photo-luminescent bar or dot codes-a process called indexing-printed on letters at the sorting center. However, with the latest optical character readers it is possible to recognize the name of the city, province or county, or postal area if they are written in a standard form using a standard type face. The automatic indexing machine now combines the advantages of indexing and optical character recognition. The machine, operating at 6 letters per second, not only indexes the mail, but also presorts it into 10 output bins. It is of a modular construction and consists of an input module that singles the letters pneumatically, an optical reading and index printing module, a photo-luminescent-index reading module for checking purposes, and several output modules. The optical reading and index printing module is equipped with an OCR-A reader and 2 print positions. The print technique is the cold impact type.

Subfile: C

Descriptors: character recognition equipment; indexing; postal services; sorting

Class Codes: C3320B (Postal services)